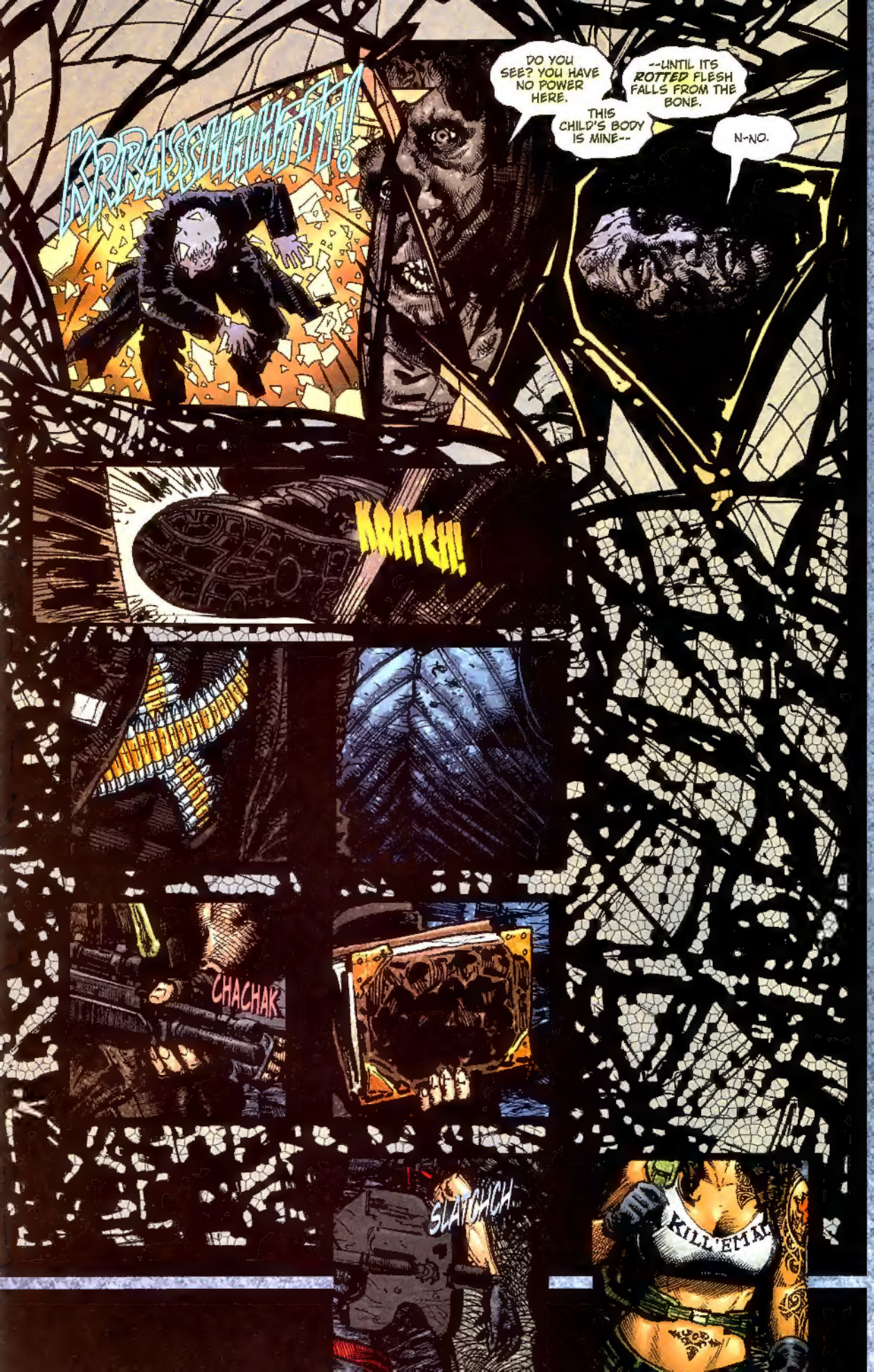
CLIFFHANGER!™
THE POSSESSED™
GEOFF JOHNS KRIS GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP
NUMBER 1 SEPTEMBER
Oh yeah he he now you're gonna get it!
$2.95 US/$4.95 CAN
DIRECT SALES
00111
HGwells
7 61941 23629 2
wildstorm.com
Suggested for Mature Readers

"LAST YEAR THERE WERE OVER 700 REPORTED CASES OF POSSESSION, ALL OF WHICH WERE VERIFIED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THIS YEAR THAT NUMBER HAS ALREADY DOUBLED...I FEAR EVIL IS NOT ONLY ENTERING INTO OUR WORLD, BUT THAT OUR WORLD IS EMBRACING IT."
--THE VATICAN'S CARDINAL FERRARA 13 APRIL, 2003.
GEORGETOWN
--GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES--
--AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.
--AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION--
--BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL--

AMEN.
HHSSSSSSS
HHSSSSSSS
YOUR FAITH IS WEAK.
I CAN SMELL IT. I CAN TASTE IT.
MY FAITH... IS STRONG.
YOUR FAITH IS MISPLACED. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS.
HHN.

LIKE YOU, I AM BUT A SERVANT FOR A GREATER POWER.
ONE THAT WILL COME FOR YOU ONE DAY AS WELL. ONE THAT CAN STAND THE... STENCH OF A SINNER.
krnnnk krk krnkkkinkk


KRRASSHHHH!!
DO YOU SEE? YOU HAVE NO POWER HERE.
THIS CHILD'S BODY IS MINE--
--UNTIL ITS ROTTED FLESH FALLS FROM THE BONE.
N-NO.
KRATCH!
CHACHAK
SLATCHCH
KILL 'EM ALL

WILDSTORM PRESENTS

THE POSSESSED

CHAPTER ONE

HIDE AND SEEK

POSSESSED AS CHILDREN BUT ULTIMATELY FREED, EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH THE HORRORS THAT ONCE PLAGUED THEM. THEY HAVE MADE A VOW TO EXORCIZE THE UNSEEN EVIL THAT CONTINUES TO INFEST THIS WORLD --AN EVIL THAT PREYS ON THE RARE INNOCENCE LEFT IN HUMANITY. WITH A COMBINATION OF ANCIENT TOOLS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THEY FACE THESE TERRORS WITHOUT HESITATION. THESE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ONCE--AND ALWAYS WILL BE--THE POSSESSED.

CREATED BY JOHNS, GRIMMINGER & SHARP

writers: GEOFF JOHNS & KRIS GRIMMINGER

artist: LIAM SHARP

colorist: DAVID BARON

letterer: JOHN LAYMAN

asst. editor KRISTY QUINN

editor: BEN ABERNATHY

BURROUGHS, I DON'T WANT THAT BASTARD JUMPING INTO THE PRIEST.
ALREADY ON IT, CHRISTIAN.
THIS MIGHT STING A LITTLE BIT--
--BUT IT'S ONLY HOLY WATER.
HOLLY. WALT. GET INTO POSITION.
GOT IT, PRETTY BOY.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, MANDY.
I'M NOT--
MANDY!
JESUS CHRIST. THAT SMELL... IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME.
I REMEMBER IT. DAMMIT, I CAN'T FORGET IT.
TIE THE BITCH DOWN.
WALT. CATCH.

GOTCHA, TRIX.
DON'T *TALK* TO *IT*, HOLLY.
DON'T GET *EMOTIONALLY* INVOLVED.
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL.
HHASSHHH!
UUUUSXXX
I *ALWAYS* TAKE IT *PERSONAL*, POP.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THROUGH IT. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS GIRL IS GOING THROUGH.
YOU HAVE NO *GOD DAMN* IDEA.
YOU WANT TO KNOW *WHY*?
I ALREADY KNOW WHY.
TIME FOR THE PREACHER--

--TO PREACH.
THE SYMBOL OF THE LORD WILL SAVE YOU, CHILD.

AS IT DID ME.

AS IT DID US ALL.

Fssssss

AAYSSS!

ENOUGH WORDS, BURROUGHS. TIME TO GET THE FUCKING THING OUT.
AND YOU'RE NOT GOIN' TO DO THAT WITH A PRAYER.
thunnk

NO! THIS VESSEL IS MINE!
VEET
NOT ANYMORE.
VVUUM
I FORM THE LIGHT AND CREATE DARKNESS.
klank
I MAKE PEACE AND DENOUNCE EVIL.
Chokk
I, THE LORD, DO ALL THESE THINGS.
KKKKZZZZZZZ
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, MANDY.
HE STILL COMES! HE STILL--
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!
RRRAAH!

GRRROOOAAAAA!
IT'S OUT VULNERABLE
TIME TO GET CONVENTIONAL.
MY FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY.

THEY STILL SCREAM OF YOUR STOLEN FLESH. THEY CRY FOR YOUR SUFFERING.
AND THERE WILL BE NO [illegible], NO ESCAPES—
—WHEN OUR KINGDOM SPREADS ACROSS THE EARTH.
YOU DEMONS WON'T TOUCH MY DAUGHTER! NOT AGAIN!
NO, DAMMIT! WAIT UNTIL IT GETS CLEAR OF THE GIRL!

I SAID WAIT, DAD!
ZRRKZ
AAII!
GRRRRAGH
FUCKING DEMONS
BLEEDING LIKE A GOD DAMN PIG
TRIX--
--WATCH THE MOUTH
IT'S GOING TO TRY AND GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!
DON'T LET IT!
BLAT TA
BLAT TA
BLAT TA
BABBOOMMM!

YOU TWO, MOVE FAST. I'VE GOT HER MOTHER.
HOLLY . BE CAREFUL.
I WILL.
DAMMIT, DAD. WAIT!
MADE ITS WAY TO THE LIVING ROOM.
TH NG'S GONNA LOOK GOOD MOUNTED ON MY WALL.
I CAN SEE YOUR SINS.
SHUKKE
DAD!
GIVE ME MY GUN. GIVE ME--
JUST STEP BACK.

BRATT
BRRRATT!
PLEASE
PLEASE, HOLLY. .DON'T HURT ME AGAIN
BLAT TA BLAT TA BLAT TA
GO BACK TO HELL!
AND STAY OUT OF MY HEAD!
RAAAEEEE!
FWOOSHH!
NICE WORK
NOW GIVE YOUR OLD MAN A HAND
YOU'RE A RECKLESS SON-OF-A-BITCH--
YOU SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
I GUESS SO.

THANK GOD, MY BABY.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. IT'S GOING...
WHO ARE YOU?
HERE
THIS WILL KEEP YOU SAFE...
THIS WILL HELP YOU FORGET
WHAT WAS I SAYING, BURROUGHS?
WHAT DO THEY ALL SAY, TRIX? I WANT YOUR BLOOD, I WANT YOUR BODY, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

PHILADELPHIA:
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
BIBLE BOOKSTORE
HEY, BURROUGHS. YOU WANT A BEER?
NOT THIRSTY.
THEY SAY YOUR POSSESSION REALLY SCREWED YOU UP.
MADE YOU FORGET, RIGHT? YOU WERE SEVEN YEARS OLD AND YOUR MEMORY WAS WIPED CLEAN?
I DON'T REMEMBER MY FATHER. .BUT THEY TELL ME HE DIED PERFORMING THE EXORCISM. HE WAS TORN APART.
I WAS BORN AGAIN, BAPTIZED IN HIS BLOOD. I HAD TO RE-LEARN HOW TO WALK, TALK. HOW TO LIVE.
AND HOW TO PRAY.
SO YOU REALLY DO BELIEVE BOOKS ARE YOUR WEAPON?
NO. FAITH IS MY WEAPON.
CHAK
WHICH FAITH?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING, DO YOU?
SURE I DO
I BELIEVE IN EVIL

YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE, HOLLY.
I JUST GAVE THE GIRL A NECKLACE, POD
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN CHRISTIAN--
I ALREADY TOLD YOU IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. IT NEVER WAS ANY OF IT.
CHRISTIAN FINANCES THIS LITTLE SUMMER CAMP, HE'S A GOOD LEADER--
--BUT HE'S MORE IN LOVE WITH HIS WORK THAN HE'S WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T KNOW ME--

"--AND YOU SURE AS *HELL* DON'T KNOW *HIM*."
CHRISTIAN?
HOLLY
HEY, YOU OKAY?
MY DAD TRIES *TOO* HARD. MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME, I SUPPOSE. WHY HE STAYS HERE, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT. HE CAN'T *RELATE* TO US.
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO FACE.
BUT WE'RE *SAFE* NOW.
SAFE.

THANK GOD I HAVE YOU
RRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGR
BETTER GEAR UP.
RRRINGGRRRINGGRRRINGGRRR
THIS S CHRISTIAN
I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT NUMBER. MY NAME...MY NAME S FATHER PETERS--

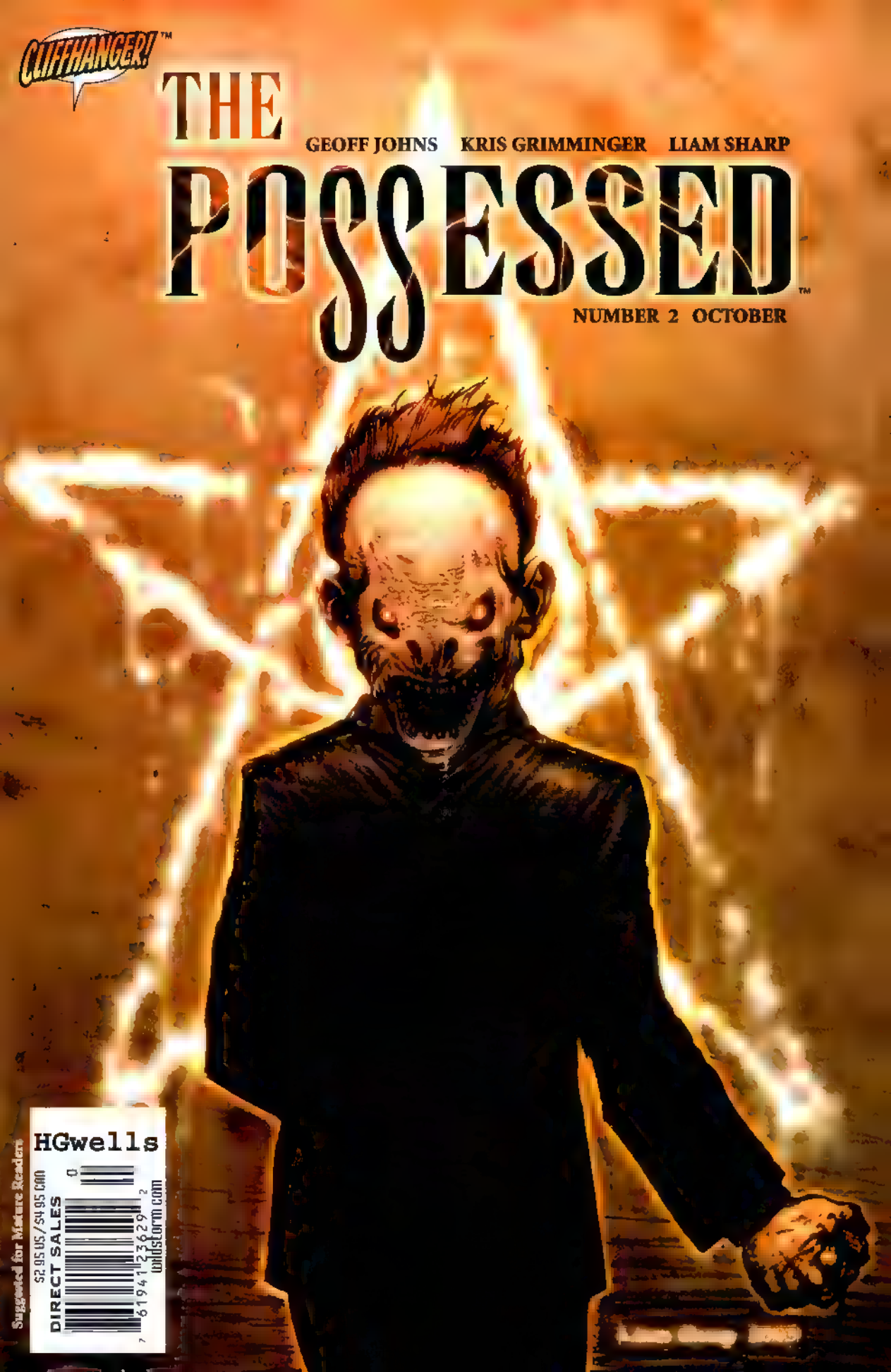
--THERE'S BEEN A POSSESSION!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY...
TO BE CONTINUED

CLIFFHANGER!™

THE POSSESSED™

GEOFF JOHNS KRIS GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP

NUMBER 2 OCTOBER



HGwells
Suggested for Mature Readers
$2.95 US/$4.95 CAN
DIRECT SALES
0 61941 23629 2
wildstorm.com

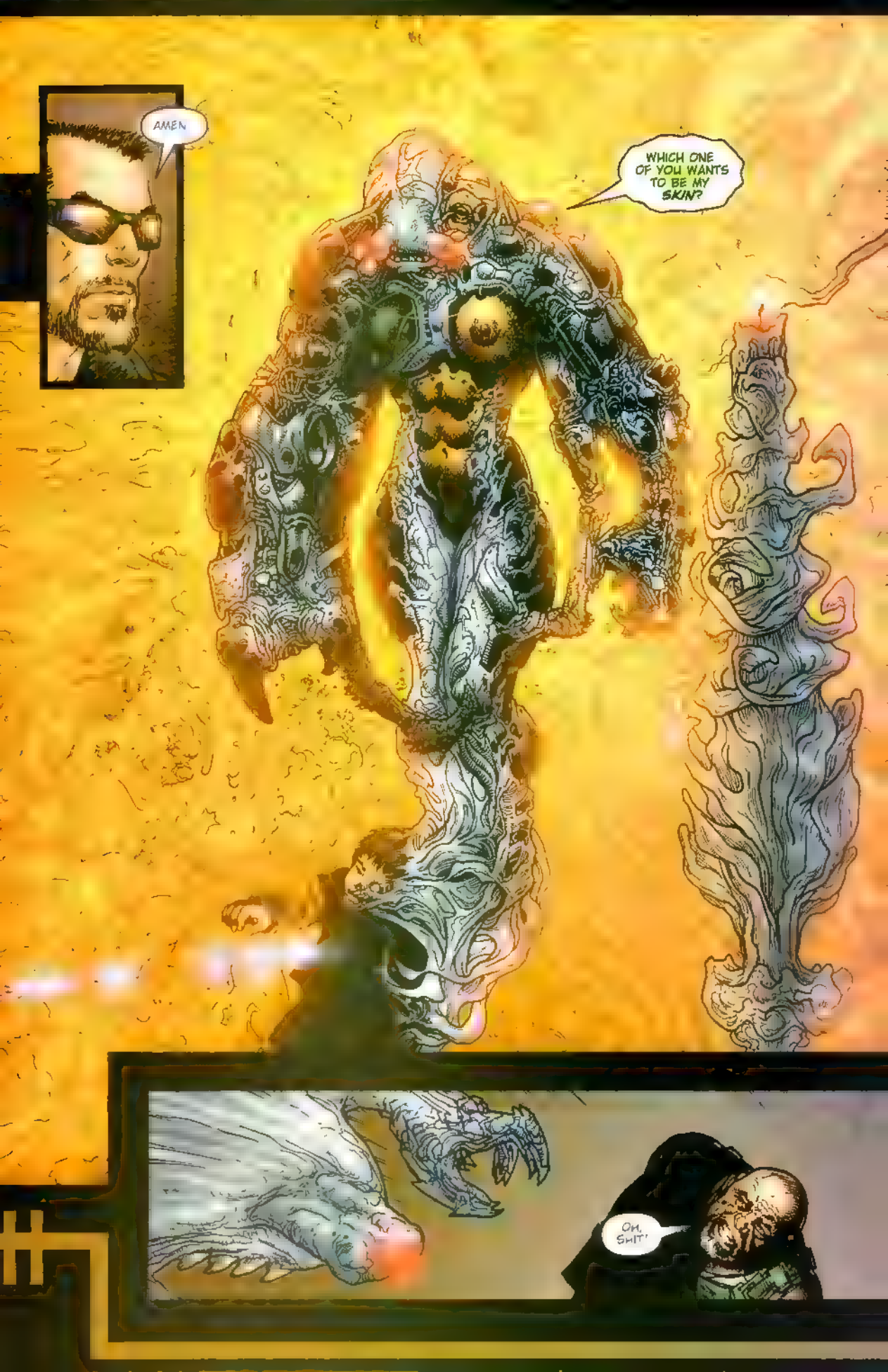
HAVE FAITH
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR FAITH, "FATHER." I JUST DON'T LIKE SHOTS.
PLACEBO IF YOU ASK ME
FFFFIIII
HNN
FAITH OR NOT-- IT KEEPS THE DEMONS OUT
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD TRIX--
--I'VE BEEN DOING THIS LONGER THAN YOU LONGER THAN ANY OF YOU AND HOLY WATER IS THE ONLY THING I'VE FOUND THAT PREVENTS POSSESSION
FFFFIIII
YOU REMEMBER WHAT THAT'S LIKE DON'T YOU, TRIX? IT'S--
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WAIT, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE
FFFFIIII
THE REST OF US DO

POSSESSED AS CHILDREN BUT ULTIMATELY FREED, EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH THE HORRORS THAT ONCE PLAGUED THEM. THEY HAVE MADE A VOW TO EXORCIZE THE UNSEEN EVIL THAT CONTINUES TO INFEST THIS WORLD--AN EVIL THAT PREYS ON THE RARE INNOCENCE LEFT IN HUMANITY. WITH A COMBINATION OF ANCIENT TOOLS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THEY FACE THESE TERRORS WITHOUT HESITATION. THESE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ONCE--AND ALWAYS WILL BE--THE POSSESSED.
GODDAMN, PRETTY BOY--
HE'S RIGHT. DID YOU DON'T KNOW. BE GLAD YOU DON'T KNOW
WE ALL ENVY YOU
CHAPTER II: SUBVERSION
YOU EVER GET AFRAID, BURROUGHS?
NO. BUT I'D BE A FOOL
DIANA!
story: GEOFF JOHNS & KRIS GRIMMINGER
art: LIAM SHARP
color: DAVID BARON
letters: JOHN LAYMAN
asst. editor: KRISTY QUINN
editor: BEN ABERNATHY
FUCK

I CAN SEE THE DOORS AT THE END OF THE HALL.
WATCH THESE PEOPLE WE DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE
HURT THEM?
.RIGHT
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE BACK--
THE STAIRS ARE BY THE ELEVATOR. THEY'LL BE FINE
FOCUS ON THAT ROOM AHEAD

I THINK SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL ALIVE, CHRISTIAN
CHRISTIAN?
HELLO...

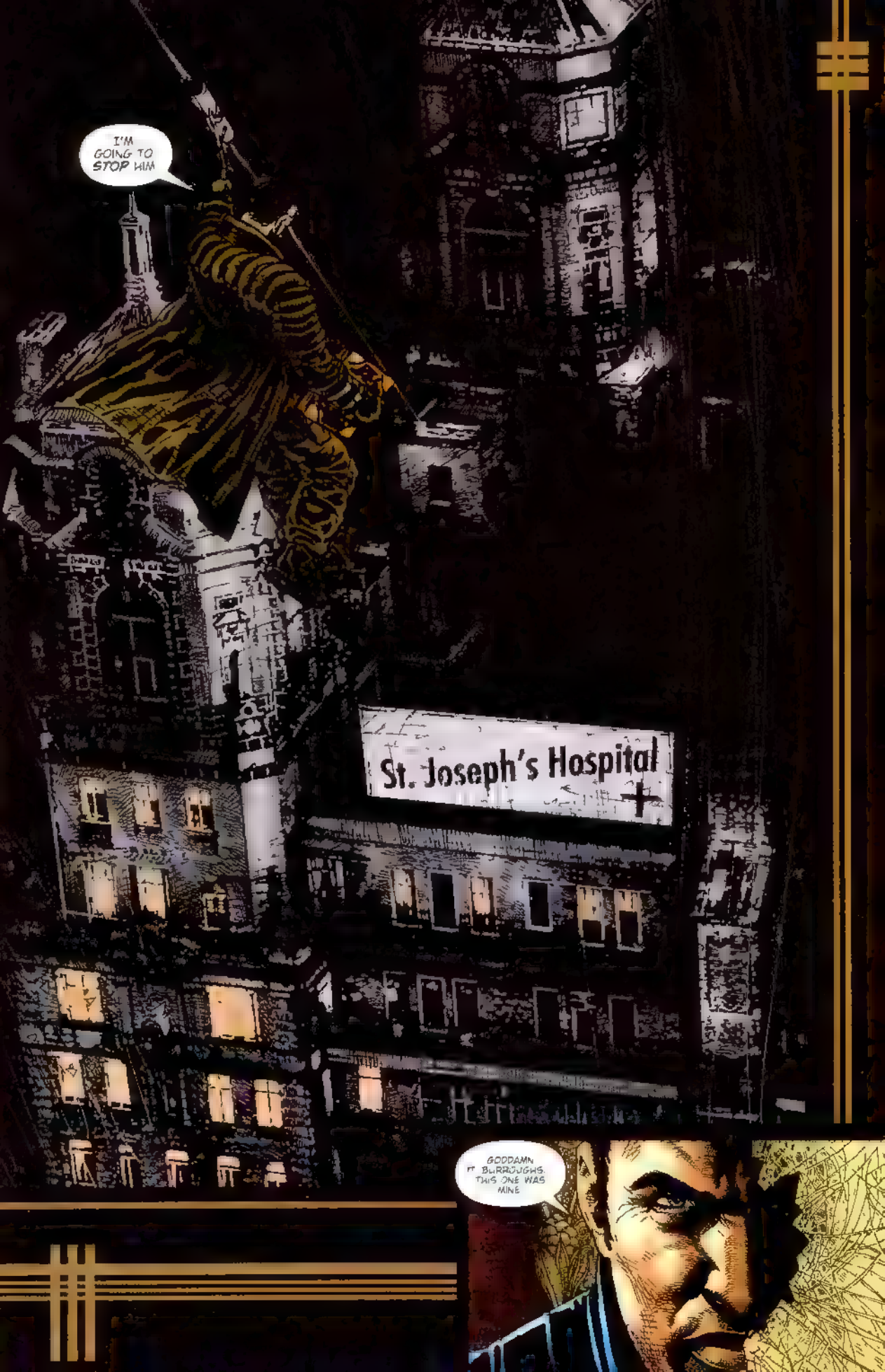
krakrakrak
krak
START TALKING BURROUGHS!
AND ON HIS FIRST COMMUNION TOO.
PATER NOSTER, QUI ES IN CAELIS, SANCTIFICETUR NOMEN TUUM
ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM. FIAT VOLUNTAS TUA SICUT IN CAELO ET IN TERRA
YOU THINK THAT STUFF REALLY WORKS DON'T YA?
PERSONALLY I THINK IT'S THE 3000 VOLTS
ET NE NOS INDUCAS IN TENTATIONEM SED LIBERA NOS A MALO


AMEN
WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY SKIN?
OH, SHIT!

SKIN.
--KAKK--
DAD!
BE READY, HOLLY THE HOLY WATER SHOULD--
THAT'S WHY WE DO THE INJECTIONS, TRIX
SO I GATHERED
BLAMM!
BLAMM!
BLAMM!

NAAARRRA!
HM.
THE HUNTERS

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM MEDICAL ATTENTION.
St. Joseph's Hospital
HE JUST LANDED ON ST. JOSEPH'S ROOF. GRAB THE KID. LET'S MOVE!
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A SECOND--
--JUST GOTTA STOP BLEEDING FIRST
TAKE A BREAK, OLD MAN
I'M NOT GETTING ON THAT THING AGAIN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO


I'M GOING TO STOP HIM
St. Joseph's Hospital
GODDAMN IT BURROUGHS. THIS ONE WAS MINE

I'VE GOT THE BOY!
LET'S GET TO THE ELEVATOR.
TRIX, STAY WITH WALT AND GRAB YOUR STUFF DO WHAT YOU CAN FROM HERE
I CAN DO A LOT FROM HERE
WALT?
JUST MORE SCARS.
I'M. GOOD.
GO
YOUR FATHER'S SLOWING US DOWN.
I KNOW HE'S GETTING OLD
HE DOESN'T BELONG

YOU DON'T LIKE CHRISTIAN, DO YOU?
NO
BECAUSE HE HAS AN EYE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER?
I'M OBJECTIVE HE'S JUST AN ASSHOLE
YEAH
HE KIND OF S
WAS THAT WHAT IT WAS LIKE?
WHAT?
FOR A SECOND .WHEN THAT DAMN THING ENTERED... MY BODY

WHEN DID YOU--?
TWO YEARS AGO. I WAS VIOLATED. I CAN STILL FEEL THE CHILL. THE VOICES, THE LAUGHTER THE HANDS...INVISIBLE HANDS . ALL OVER MY SKIN. INSIDE MY BODY
I'VE NEVER FELT SO HELPLESS .
I'M SURPRISED I DIDN'T LOSE MY MIND
HOW LONG DID IT LAST?
BEFORE IT WAS EXORCISED? TWO FUCKING WEEKS TWO WEEKS OF HELL.
YOUR DAUGHTER. HOLLY HOW LONG WAS SHE ?
THREE MONTHS
THREE MONTHS AND I WASN'T THERE A SINGLE DAMN DAY.

HEY!
WHAT--?
YOu GOT A NEW PATIENT
COME ON! LET H.M GO

POINT THAT THING SOMEWHERE ELSE, TRIX

DON'T LOOK AT ME, LOOK FOR IT
I AM BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
ARE YOU SURE HE'S STILL UP THERE?
HE MADE THE JUMP, BUT THAT BODY DIDN'T HANDLE IT VERY WELL
IT'S STILL A HUMAN BODY
BAMM!
HEY GUYS I THNK I SEE SOMETHING

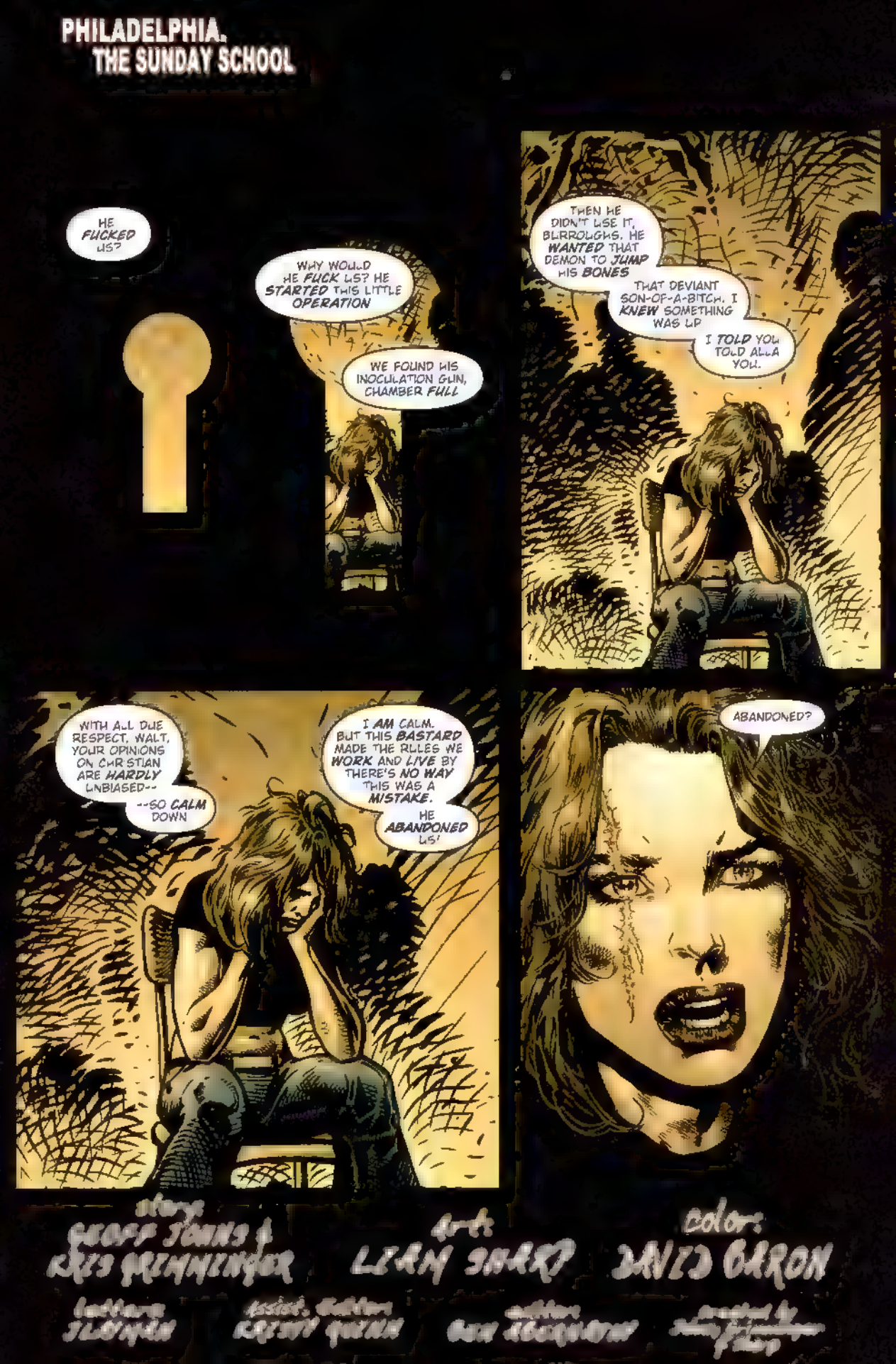
Abhorrent
Animus
Horrible
FIGHTING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S FREEDOM IS LIKE FUCKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S VIRGINITY!
I don't give a shit what
happened to you
I pissed this high

CHRISTIAN
DO YOU WANT ME INSIDE YOU?
KLANGGOOOMM!
CHRISTIAN! CHRISTIAN, DO YOU READ ME?
HE JUST WENT OFF-LINE, GUYS.
CHRISTIAN?!

GUYS?
GUYS, WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?
HOLD ON, TRIX!
LAUNDRY
THOOM
KISS ME QUICK
HE'S DEAD
AND THE DEMON IS GONE
WHERE'S HE?

HIS...
THE INOCULATION-GUN
THE CHAMBER...IT HASN'T BEEN USED. .
HE WAS UNPROTECTED, THAT'S WHY THE DEMON WENT AFTER HIM
WHY WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT? WHY WOULDN'T HE HAVE USED IT?
BECAUSE HE WANTED THAT THING INSIDE HIM, HOLLY.
FOR SOME GODFORSAKEN REASON. .HE WANTED TO BE POSSESSED.
TO BE CONTINUED

CLIFFHANGER!
THE
GEOFF JOHNS KRIS GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP
POSSESSED
NUMBER 3 NOVEMBER
H.G. Wells
DIRECT SALES
$2.95 US/$3.95 CDCAN
7 61941 23629
wildstorm.com
Suggested for Mature Readers
Liam Sharp 2003


PHILADELPHIA.
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
HE FUCKED US?
WHY WOULD HE FUCK US? HE STARTED THIS LITTLE OPERATION
WE FOUND HIS INOCULATION GUN, CHAMBER FULL
THEN HE DIDN'T USE IT, BURROUGHS. HE WANTED THAT DEMON TO JUMP HIS BONES
THAT DEVIANT SON-OF-A-BITCH. I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP
I TOLD YOU TOLD ALLA YOU.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WALT, YOUR OPINIONS ON CHRISTIAN ARE HARDLY UNBIASED--
--SO CALM DOWN
I AM CALM. BUT THIS BASTARD MADE THE RULES WE WORK AND LIVE BY THERE'S NO WAY THIS WAS A MISTAKE.
HE ABANDONED US!
ABANDONED?
story
GARTH ENNIS & JOE CASEY
art
LEANN SHARP
color
DAVID BARON

THAT'S THE ONE THING YOU'RE AN EXPERT ON, ISN'T IT, POP?
ABANDONMENT.
CHRISTIAN DID MORE FOR US THAN ANYONE.
ANYONE, POP
HAVE YOU TOLD THEM WHY YOU'RE HERE? DO THEY EVEN KNOW? KNOW HOW YOU LEFT MOM AND ME WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD?
I GOT SICK .WITH THAT THING INSIDE OF ME.
YOU COULDN'T DEAL WITH IT. SO YOU RAN AWAY.
LEFT MOM TO TAKE ALL THE HORROR ALL OF THAT DAMN ABUSE ALL OF THAT
GOD DAMN YOU!
THAT THING DROVE HER MAD, BUT YOU DESTROYED HER LIFE!
AND THEN, TEN YEARS LATER, YOU SHOW UP AT HER FUNERAL. TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. TRYING TO... KNOW ME
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? I DON'T WANT TO LOVE YOU
DO YOU KNOW WHAT CHRISTIAN USED TO TELL ME?
FORGIVE HIM
HE WAS ON YOUR SIDE, POP.
YOU WANT TO ABANDON HIM. RUN AWAY AGAIN, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT

HOLLY ..
WE STILL NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE. HOW DO YOU ANSWER THAT? DID HE SAY ANYTHING OR--
I DON'T KNOW
I WANT TO GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT HE'S A FRIEND TO ME TOO. WE'VE RELIED ON HIM FOR YEARS.
BUT YOU KNEW HIM BETTER THAN US THINK.
I'M TRYING TO

RD!
CHRISTIAN KEPT DETAILED FILES ON EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN DOING. I FOUND THESE IN MY ROOM. I THINK HE *PUT* THEM THERE. THEY LOOK LIKE CHILDREN'S ART.

IT'S THE SAME SYMBOL THAT BRAT WAS PAINTING ON THE WALL. BUT THE CIRCLE'S ON THE OUTSIDE
I THINK IT'S A *COUNTDOWN*, TRIX
THREE CIRCLES, THEN *TWO*, THEN *ONE*.
MAYBE HE FOUND SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW .. TOO DANGEROUS FOR US?

HOLLY...
OH, JESUS. I KNOW THESE

BRNNGGG

HELLO?

IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN
IRONWOOD
IRONWOOD
IRONWOOD COUNTRY
WAGGONER
LOCK & KEY

...GODDAMN... HOT IN HERE.
MR. WAGGONER--
--THAT'S NOT FOR YOU.
IT'S FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.

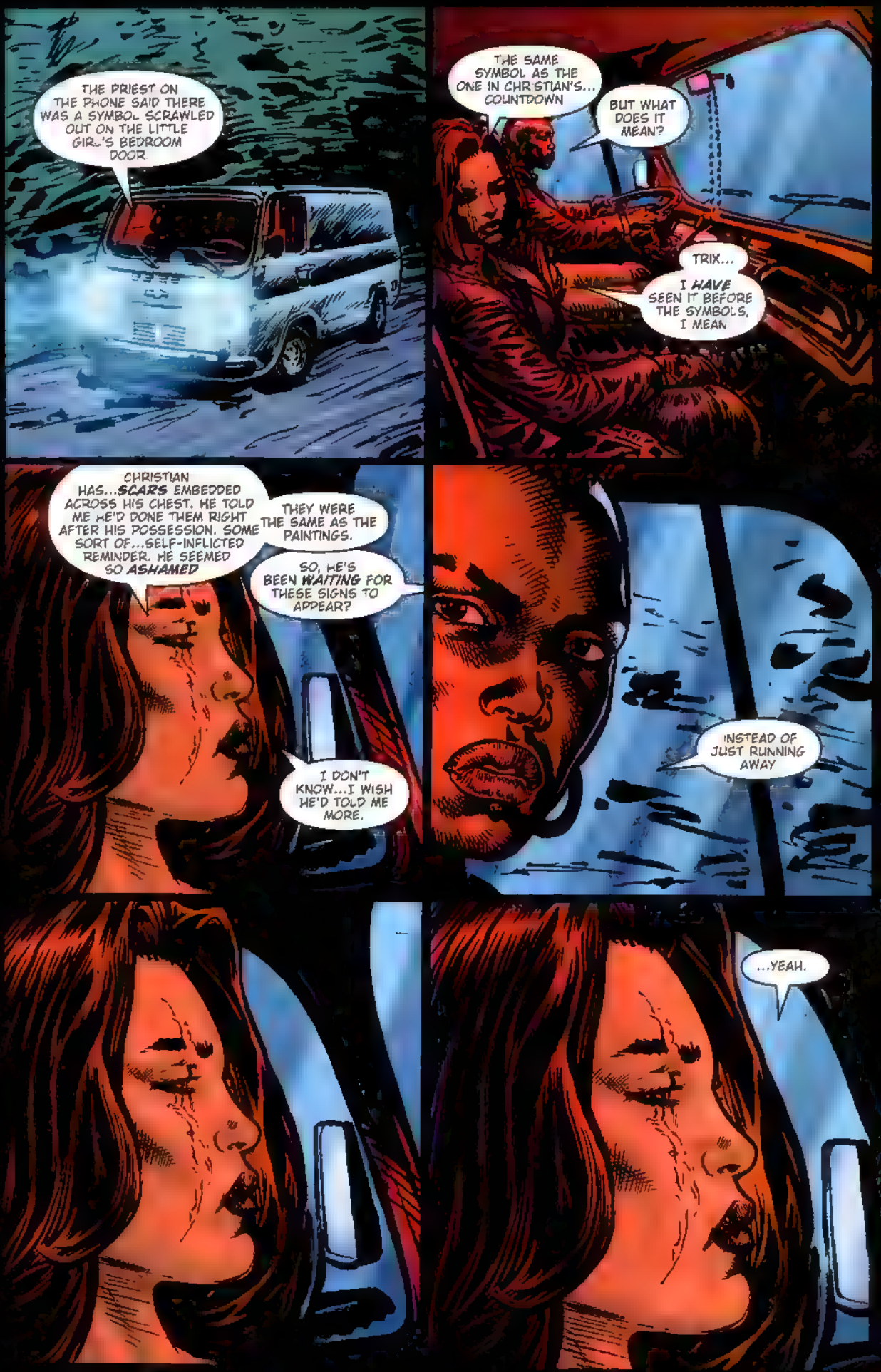
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SIERRA?
SHE IS VERY ILL, MR WAGGONER.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN...WELL, EVER. I HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT THOUGH... FROM OTHERS.
DOC SAID SHE HAD THE FLU.
NEVER SEEN A FLU LIKE THIS BEFORE HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO TOUCH HER. SO IF YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS... THEN PLEASE, TELL ME.
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU IN MY CHURCH.
YES, I SEE--
--AND LOOK WHERE THAT'S GOTTEN YOU BOTH.

MR. WAGGONER, I ONLY MEANT--
YOU ONLY MEANT THAT SINCE I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR GOD, THEN WE MUST'VE BROUGHT THIS UPON OURSELVES, WHETHER SHE'S SICK OR NOT
IF YOU CAN HELP HER, THEN DO IT, AND IF NOT--
--GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.
SOMEBODY CALL FOR AN EXORCIST?

MY NAME IS CHRISTIAN PIERCE--
--AND I'M HERE TO HELP.
WHO THE HELL--
I'M FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN PHILADELPHIA.
MR. WAGGONER, IT'S OKAY. IF ANYONE CAN HELP SIERRA, HE CAN.
I CALLED THEM.
YES, FATHER...
I GOT THE... MESSAGE
GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES ALONE WITH HER.

HOME SWEET HOME
I HAVE DELIVERED HIM TO YOU
THEN GO BACK TO HELL
CRACK

...CHRISTIAN.
WHEN I WAS TEN, I GOT SICK.
I GREW UP THE SPOILED PRODIGY OF WEALTHY LAWYERS IN CHICAGO. MY MOTHER AND FATHER SAW THAT I RECEIVED THE BEST CARE.. BEST DOCTORS. BUT NOTHING WORKED I VOMITED BLOOD, I BROKE MY OWN BONES, CARVED MY OWN SKIN.
THIS WENT ON FOR ELEVEN MONTHS. ELEVEN MONTHS IN AND OUT OF HOSPITALS AND PSYCH WARDS.
THEN ONE DAY, AGAINST MY PARENTS' WILL, MY AUNT BROUGHT IN A JESUIT PRIEST
I WAS VIOLATED, CORRUPTED ..I GREW TO...LOVE PAIN AND BECAUSE OF THAT, MY PARENTS PUT ME AWAY. I SPENT HALF MY CHILDHOOD IN A PADDED CELL. ALWAYS FEELING YOUR INFLUENCE INSIDE OF ME.
I STILL DO.
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU.
YOU'RE MINE, YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH.
AND THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU.
THEY'RE COMING FOR US

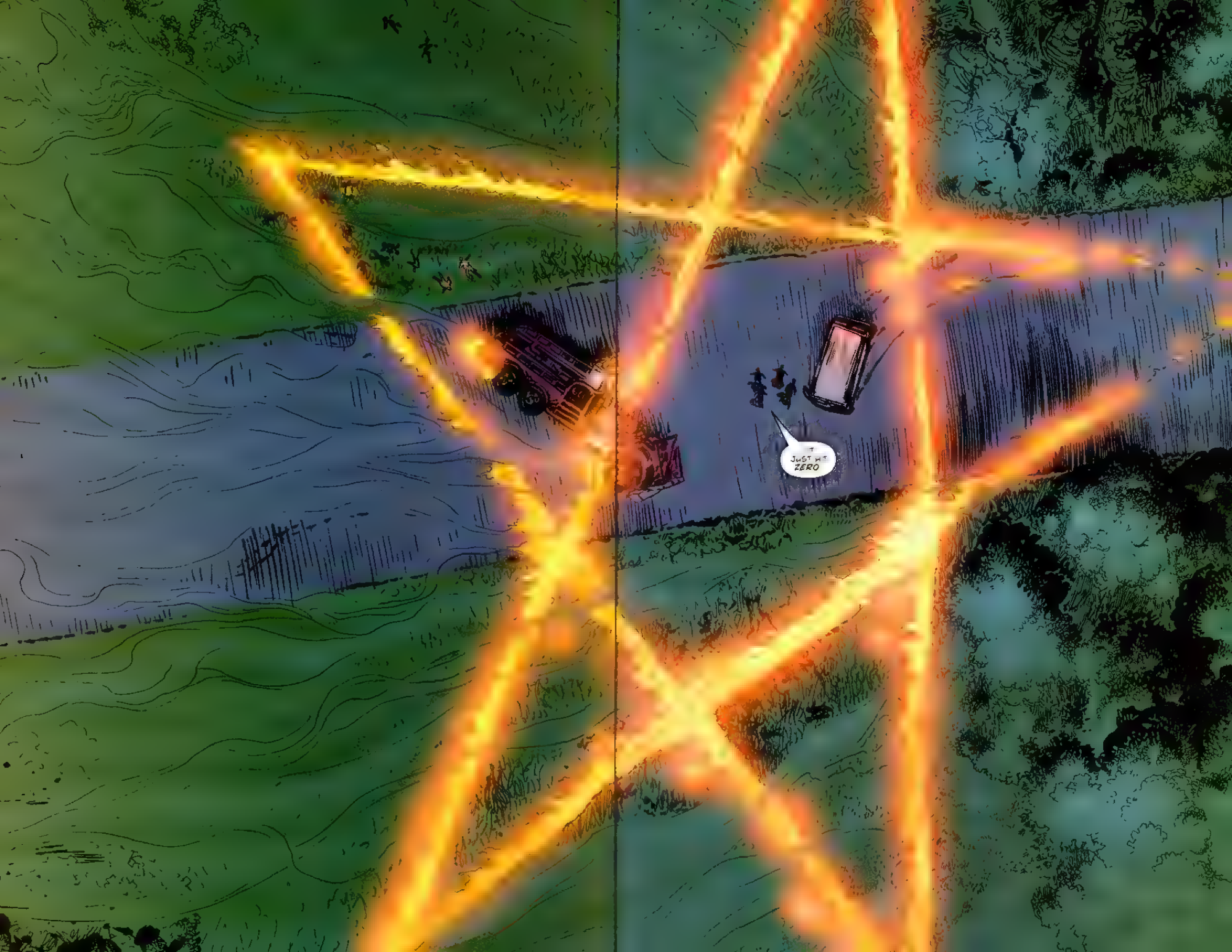

THE PRIEST ON THE PHONE SAID THERE WAS A SYMBOL SCRAWLED OUT ON THE LITTLE GIRL'S BEDROOM DOOR.
THE SAME SYMBOL AS THE ONE IN CHRISTIAN'S... COUNTDOWN
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
TRIX...
I HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE THE SYMBOLS, I MEAN
CHRISTIAN HAS...SCARS EMBEDDED ACROSS HIS CHEST. HE TOLD ME HE'D DONE THEM RIGHT AFTER HIS POSSESSION. SOME SORT OF...SELF-INFLICTED REMINDER. HE SEEMED SO ASHAMED
THEY WERE THE SAME AS THE PAINTINGS.
SO, HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR THESE SIGNS TO APPEAR?
I DON'T KNOW...I WISH HE'D TOLD ME MORE.
INSTEAD OF JUST RUNNING AWAY
...YEAH.

YOU KNOW... BURROUGHS..
I'VE NEVER DONE A SINGLE DAMN THING THAT'S MATTERED.
LIFE'S NEVER HAD A PURPOSE FOR ME, I GUESS.
THEN I SAW HOLLY AGAIN, AT HER MOTHER'S FUNERAL. I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY YEARS HAD DISAPPEARED. HOW MANY I HAD WASTED
THAT DAUGHTER OF MINE.. SHE'S TOUGH. DETERMINED. IT'S HARD TO TALK BECAUSE SHE'S TOO DAMN MUCH LIKE ME.
WHEN SHE FINALLY STARTED, I PROMISED TO LISTEN
AND TO BELIEVE
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY, I MADE A BIG MISTAKE, BUT I'LL NEVER LEAVE HER ALONE AGAIN.
WALT, I'M A PRIEST...
BUT THIS ISN'T A CONFESSIONAL

LOOK...
JUST DON'T TRY SO HARD.
UP HERE. TAKE AURORA STREET EAST. I--
SHIT!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
SOME SORT OF ACCIDENT
WITH ONLY ONE TRUCK?

LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR
Welcome to IRON WOOD MICHIGAN Pop 666
BURROUGHS? WHAT'S THIS?
LOOK AT IT. THIS IS BIGGER THAN THE OTHERS, HOLLY...
WHATEVER CHRISTIAN'S COUNTDOWN WAS--


JUST AT ZERO

IRONWOOD
I KE A GHOST TOWN
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
ANYBODY ELSE GETTING ONE OF THOSE FUNNY FEEL NGS?

I BETTER GET OUT THE--WAIT A SECOND...
QUIET.
YOU GUYS HEAR THAT? SOUNDS LIKE--
--ORGAN MUSIC?
WHATEVER'S HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE TOWN, THE PARISHIONERS IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE SAFE...
HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
WHY DO YOU THINK WE HIDE OUT IN AN OLD CHURCH?
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
--LEAD US TO TEMPTATION--
YOU WERE SAYING, BIBLE-BOY?

THE WAY THE LIGHT & THE TRUTH
HER LADY of the LAKE
--AND DELIVER US TO EVIL.
--AND DELIVER US TO EVIL.
--AND DELIVER US TO EVIL.

CLIFFHANGER!™

THE POSSESSED

GEOFF JOHNS KRIS GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP

NUMBER 4 DECEMBER

H.G. Wells

IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
JESUS IS LOVE!
KRRAK-KSHH!
AND STAY OUT
SUNDAY SCHOOL
STORY GEOFF JOHNS & KRIS GRIMMINGER
ART LIAM SHARP
COLORS DAVID BARON
LETTERS JOHN LAYMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR KRISTY QUINN
EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY
CREATED BY JOHNS, GRIMMINGER & SHARP

I THINK WALT HAS THE RIGHT IDEA
MEANING WHAT?
THE INFLUENCE IN THIS TOWN IS FAR GREATER THAN ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN, TRIX
THIS SANCTUARY SHOULD BE PROTECTED-- NOT INFESTED. GOD'S HOUSE--
GOD'S HOUSE MEANS SHIT. YOUR PRAYERS AREN'T HOLDING THEM BACK VERY WELL, BURROUGHS--
--NEITHER ARE THE TASERS.
DO WE EVEN HAVE A PLAN B?
WE NEVER NEEDED ONE

PLAN B--
--GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID
HELP ME GET THESE.. DOORS CLOSED
EVERYBODY PUSH
"SAFE IN A CHURCH" IT'S JUST FOUR WALLS AND A ROOF, BURROUGHS.
THAT'S ALL IT IS.
NO THIS IS SACRED--
THERE'S A PRIEST WITH A CROSS THROUGH HIS STOMACH IN THE CORNER.
JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD 'EM.
WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON IN THIS TOWN? WHAT THE FUCK DID CHRISTIAN DO HERE, HOLLY?
WE DON'T KNOW IF HE--UGH-- DID ANYTHING.
BOOOOMM!
BOOM-BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM!
DAMMIT. I CAN'T--
THEY STOPPED
THEY'RE... GONE.
WHY WOULD THEY JUST LEAVE?
BECAUSE YOUR TASTE IS FOUL.

YOU HAVE SPOILED YOURSELVES WITH THE ANNOINTED WATER THAT FLOWS THROUGH YOUR VEINS. BUT NOT TO WORRY--
--WE WILL STILL FEED ON YOUR SOULS EVENTUALLY.
FOR NOW, THERE IS SWEETER FRUIT STILL LEFT IN IRON WOOD...
THAT BODY... THERE'S NO WAY HE--
--THEY AREN'T ABLE TO POSSESS THE DEAD.
ANOTHER NEW WRINKLE TO THIS FUNTOWN.
OH, YOU'RE IN FOR MORE SURPRISES THAN JUST ME.
HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?
THIS IS A VESSEL LIKE ANY OTHER--
--THERE'S JUST NO JOY IN IT. NO SOUL TO CORRUPT.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?
LET'S GET HIM UP.

DYSLEXIK
FCUK

FHSSSSSS!
HEY--
--THE STREETS ARE DEAD QUIET. NO MOVEMENT AND THEY TOOK OUR FUCKING VAN!
OUR GEAR--
IT IS TIME FOR QUIET. IT IS TIME FOR PREPARATIONS.
COMFY?
NO MORE THAN YOU WILL BE IN HELL, MY SON.
WHY YOU MOTHER FU--

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, PREPARATIONS?
--PREPARATIONS FOR WHAT?
HE'S PLAYING GAMES. WE SHOULD END THIS.
THE NEW DAWN. OUR DAWN.
OH, THE END WILL COME SOON ENOUGH--
--BUT NOT BEFORE YOU'VE FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT YOUR LOVER.
SO CHRISTIAN IS HERE.
OH, HE'S HERE--MORE OR LESS.
YOU'VE BEEN CHASING YOUR TAILS SINCE YOU BEGAN THIS HOLY WAR.

YOU THINK POSSESSION IS RANDOM--THAT WE DO IT WITHOUT A MEANS TO AN END?
THERE'S A PURPOSE TO EVERY-THING.
YOU DON'T ENDEAVOR TO DESTROY GOD'S GREATEST CREATION WITHOUT EXPERI-MENTATION.
WE CANNOT SURVIVE IN GOD'S WORLD. IT WAS MADE TO KEEP HIS LAMBS SAFE FROM US.
SO RATHER THAN SLAUGHTER THE LAMBS--YOU BECOME THEM.
YOU'RE MORE OBSERVANT THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR.
WHAT HE BUILDS, WE WILL CONSUME. AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO USE HIS OWN PRECIOUS BEINGS AS THE CATALYST
HEY, GUYS...
FOUND THE VAN.
TWO BLOCKS STRAIGHT UP MAIN STREET--OUTSIDE AN OLD SCHOOL.
TRIX. WE'RE HEADING TO IT. YOU HOLD THE FORT.
YOU WANT TO LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HIM?
GREAT

SEE ANYTHING?
NOT YET
TRIX MODIFIED OUR NIGHT GOGGLES. THE BODY TEMPERATURE OF ONE OF THE POSSESSED--
--IT'S ALWAYS ONE HUNDRED PLUS
INFRA-RED SENSORS ON HERE REGISTER ANYTHING APPROACHING THAT WITH A WHITE OVERLAY. EVERYONE ELSE STAYS RED
SHE MADE A LOT OF NEW TOYS.
SHE'S A SMART GIRL.
SOMETIMES.
WHEN SHE'S NOT SUPPRESSING HER FEARS.
TRIX? AFRAID?
HIDING BEHIND ALL OF THOSE TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS...
DISGUISING WHO SHE USED TO BE.
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE FOUND AGAIN. FOUND BY WHATEVER TOOK HER AS A CHILD.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
LIKE MY FATHER--
--I TURNED TO GOD
WE'VE ALL DEALT WITH IT IN OUR OWN WAY

I TRUST HIM TO LEAD ME TO SALVATION, AND TO THOSE IN NEED.
MY FIRST MEMORY IS WIPING MY FATHER'S BLOOD OUT OF MY EYES
HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO FREE ME.
I'LL GLADLY GIVE MINE TO HELP OTHERS.
SO YOU IGNORE IT.
I DREAM ABOUT IT CONSTANTLY, WALT. I USED TO FIGHT IT. USED TO FORCE MYSELF TO STAY AWAKE FOR DAYS AT A TIME BUT THEN I LEARNED TO USE IT.
I LIVE THROUGH IT EVERY NIGHT, I SEE IT ALL HAPPEN AGAIN, I WIPE THE BLOOD FROM MY EYES OVER AND OVER--
--AND I AM REBORN EVERY MORNING.
MY FAITH IS STRONGER EACH TIME I WAKE. MY WILL RENEWED.
WHAT SADDENS ME IN ALL OF THIS...
IS THAT CHRISTIAN UNDERSTOOD THAT. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
THAT YOU MUST FACE YOUR GREATEST FEAR TO OVERCOME IT.

HOLLY.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED IN THIS TOWN, WALT.
THE DOORWAYS INTO THE SOULS OF THESE PEOPLE, ALL OF THESE PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN OPENED.
A PRECURSOR TO ANOTHER ARRIVAL. A BIGGER ARRIVAL.
SOMETHING, I FEAR, CHRISTIAN KNOWS ABOUT
BUT DIDN'T TELL US, HUH?
MAYBE FOR OUR OWN GOOD.
HE MAY BE TRYING TO PROTECT US FROM SOMETHING
BUT HE KNEW WE'D COME AFTER HIM.
RIGHT, HOLLY?

HOLLY?
CHRISTIAN...?

Bill's Pets

SHIT.
CHRISTIAN...
BANG
DAD.

...WHO?
WHIPP!
COME ON--
--THERE'LL BE MORE OF THEM.

POSSESSED?
Chk-Chk-Nak!
WHAT'RE YOU, FUCKING CRAZY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT EXORCIST SHIT.
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER START
WE CAN HOLE UP HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE. LISTEN...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN IRON WOOD. THEY'RE ALL SICK OR--
IT'S REAL. IT'S HAPPENING. RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW--IN YOUR TOWN. ITS ENTIRE POPULATION SEEMS INFECTED.. EXCEPT FOR YOU.
AND WHY IS THAT THEN?

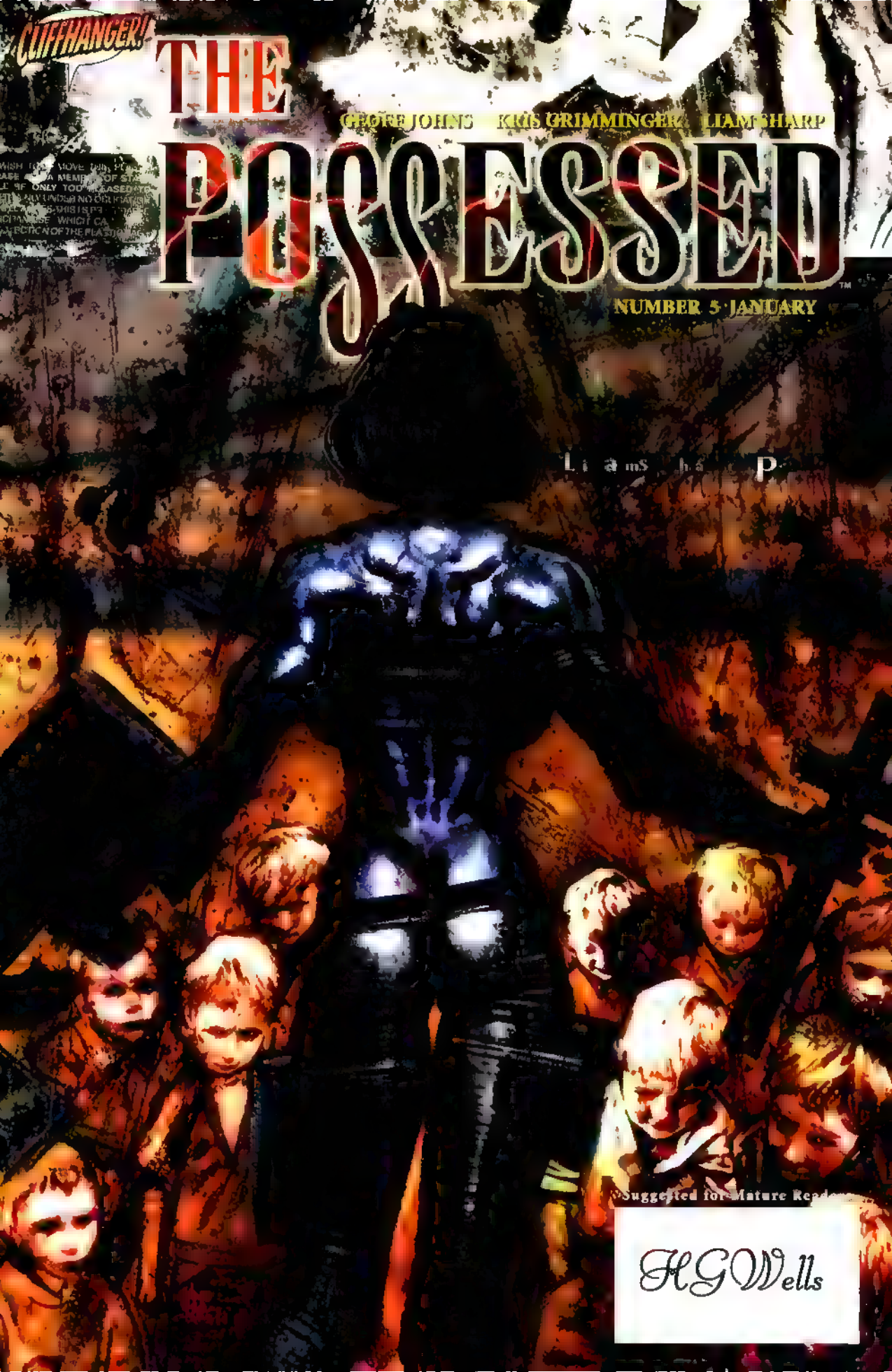
DON'T KNOW. DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU'RE NOT INFECTED?
ME AND MY TEAM, THE OTHERS I TOLD YOU ABOUT--WE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST IT.
YOUR DAUGHTER... SIERRA?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
SHE'D BEEN SICK. REALLY SICK. THEN THIS FUCKIN' PSYCHO FROM PHILADELPHIA SHOWS UP, AND SUDDENLY SHE'S NOT JUST SICK ANYMORE--
PHILADELPHIA?
...CHRISTIAN.

FRIENDS LEFT YOU ALONE?
SHUT UP
DO YOU STILL FEEL IT, TRIX?
CAN YOU STILL FEEL THE COLD?
OUR ICY GRIP INSIDE YOUR BODY? THE TANTALIZATION OF OUR TOUCH OVER YOUR SKIN?
IT WASN'T YOU. YOU WEREN'T THERE. YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
SO SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE BEFORE I PUT A BLLLET IN YOUR FUCKING DEAD SKULL
YOU DO MISS IT.
IT'S OKAY TO ADMIT THAT. THERE'S NO SHAME
--KATHERINE.
WE STILL MISS YOU--
FUCKING SHUT UP

HOLLY!
GODDAMMIT. WHERE DID SHE GO?
HER COM-LINK IS OFF. MINE'S FULL OF STATIC.
NOTHING'S WORKING.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? WE NEED TO--
YES, WE NEED TO FIND HER.
BUT WE ALSO NEED MORE EQUIPMENT IF WE'RE TAKING ON A WHOLE--

AH, CHRIST
THIS ISN'T GOOD
NO SHIT
THESE DEMONS AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT US. THIS IS A SIGN--
--LETTING US KNOW.
THEY'RE LAUGHING AT US.
THE LANGUAGE... THE WORDS..
HE'S HERE.
HE'S INSIDE CHRISTIAN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO?

THE FUCKING DEVIL.
TO BE CONTINUED


CLIFFHANGER!
THE
POSSESSED
GEOFF JOHNS KIRK GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP
NUMBER 5 JANUARY
Suggested for Mature Reade
H.G Wells

Ironwood Elementary School
WE SHOULD BE OUT FINDING MY DAUGHTER, BURROUGHS
CHRIST-ON-A-STICK..
THE FUCKING DEVIL HAS COME TO TOWN

WITHOUT GOD

STORY: GEOFF JOHNS & KRIS GRIMMINGER
ART: LIAM SHARP
COLORS: DAVID BARON
LETTERS: JOHN LAYMAN
ASSIST EDITOR: KRISTY QUINN
EDITOR: BEN ABERNATHY
CREATED BY JOHNS, GRIMMINGER & SHARP

POSSESSED AS CHILDREN BUT ULTIMATELY FREED, EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH THE HORRORS THAT ONCE PLAGUED THEM. THEY HAVE MADE A VOW TO EXORCIZE THE UNSEEN EVIL THAT CONTINUES TO INFEST THIS WORLD--AN EVIL THAT PREYS ON THE RARE INNOCENCE LEFT IN HUMANITY. WITH A COMBINATION OF ANCIENT TOOLS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THEY FACE THESE TERRORS WITHOUT HESITATION. THESE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ONCE--AND ALWAYS WILL BE--THE POSSESSED.

THE SIGN OF GOD--
--INVERTED
THEIR EYES ARE BURNED OUT THEY'VE GAZED UPON THE FALLEN ANGEL.
HE IS HERE.
AND CHRISTIAN HELPED BRING HIM HERE, RIGHT? HE BETRAYED US--
WE DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY YET
SO DON'T JUDGE, WALT
LEAVE THAT TO GOD

ALL THESE PEOPLE THEY'RE ADULTS
PROBABLY THE FACULTY
SO WHERE ARE THE KIDS?
HEE HEE
YOU KNOW WHAT'S FUCKED?
WHAT?
THIS DON'T SURPRISE ME ONE BIT
CHAK!

Time to die!
SUCKS
Woodstock

WHAT ARE YOU--?
THEY'RE JUST CHILDREN, WALT. IF THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN EXORCISE THESE DEMONS AND THEY CAN BE SAVED--
--WE TRY
PUT AWAY THE SHOT-GUN--
thmmp
--AND PULL OUT THE TOYS

YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALREADY DEAD.
I CAN HEAR THEIR SOULS CRYING FOR MERCY.
QUIET
JUST AS YOURS DID. THAT SPOILED LITTLE BRAT INSIDE YOU, KATHERINE. WE TAKE YOUR MEMORIES. WE LOOK INSIDE AND STEAL EVERY WONDERFUL MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE.
...SCARED LITTLE GIRL.
NO...
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM WHO I AM FOR LONG ENOUGH.
I'M KATHERINE TAYLOR. I WAS BORN IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN. AND, YEAH, I WAS A SPOILED BRAT.
BUT I'M NOT SCARED, ASSHOLE. YOU TELL THAT BASTARD WHO POSSESSED ME TO SHOW HIMSELF. YOU TELL HIM--
--SHIT

OH, KATHERINE...
I'M SURE THE "BASTARD" IS IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
THANKS FOR THE HEADS UP
BLAM!
SPLOTH!
YOU WANT ME BACK, MOTHERFUCKERS?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WORK FOR IT

THEY'RE EATING ANIMALS.
THEY AREN'T JUST FEEDING, MICHAEL. IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF MASS SACRIFICE.
SACRIFICE?
MAYBE TO WELCOME SOMETHING ELSE INTO THIS WORLD.
GREAT. "SOMETHING ELSE" LIKE WHAT, HOLLY?
I DON'T KNOW.
USUALLY THIS JOB'S A LITTLE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
WE GO IN. WE EXORCISE THE DEMONS. WE SEND THE THINGS BACK TO HELL.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT...
I'VE NEVER SEEN POSSESSION LIKE THIS BEFORE.

WELL, WHERE THE HELL IS GOD?
DOING WHAT HE'S ALWAYS DONE, MICHAEL. HE'S WATCHING
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, THAT HE'S ABANDONED US?
THESE DEMONS ARE WAGING A WAR ON GOD. BUT THEY'RE ATTACKING SOMETHING THAT GOD WON'T DEFEND
WHY NOT?
DYING RELIGIONS, LACK OF FAITH. WHO KNOWS? HUMANITY'S CHANGED, AND NOT NECESSARILY FOR THE BETTER.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU MET A GENUINELY FAITHFUL PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF FORTY IN AMERICA? SPIRITUALLY, WE'RE BARREN.
MEANWHILE, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE SO DIVIDED THAT YOU HAVE WARRING RELIGIONS--FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER
WE CAST HIM OUT OF OUR LIVES LONG AGO. MAYBE WE ASKED FOR FREE WILL...AND WE GOT IT
I'D TRADE IT ALL FOR A MIRACLE RIGHT ABOUT NOW
MY FRIEND, CHRISTIAN, THE MAN WHO CAME TO SEE YOU. HE USED TO TELL ME THAT WITH THE WORLD IN ITS PRESENT CONDITION--
--YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN MIRACLES.

WHAT ABOUT FAITH?
HIS POINT WAS THAT FAITH WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR--IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE LIFE WORK. YOU HAVE TO PUT A LITTLE FAITH IN YOURSELF
I DON'T ENVY YOUR DAUGHTER, THE NIGHTMARE SHE'S SUFFERED, BUT I'VE BEEN THERE--I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. THE MEMBERS OF MY TEAM AND I--WE'VE ALL BEEN POSSESSED.
POSSESSION TAKES EVERYTHING. IT ROBBED US OF THE FAITH IN OUR BELIEFS, AND IN OURSELVES. BUT CHRISTIAN WAS THE ONE. HE FORMED OUR GROUP. HE PUT ALL HE HAD INTO IT. HE BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER.
WE MAY ALL HAVE LOST SOMETHING, BUT CHRISTIAN TOOK A STAND TO GET IT BACK.
HE USED TO SAY, YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF...
OH, MY GOD--THAT'S WHAT HE'S DOING, ISN'T IT?
HOLLY, WHAT--?
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE CHURCH

WAS NEVER GOOD WITH KIDS
JUST SHUT UP, AND KEEP MOVING, WALT.
POOL

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST
BAM! BAM! BAM!
OKAY, WALT...LET THEM IN..
ALL RIGHT EVERYBODY. BATH-TIME
AND DON'T FORGET TO WASH BEHIND YOUR EARS!
BLESS NG THE POOL WATER. GOOD IDEA.
CHAK CHAK!
KLAK!

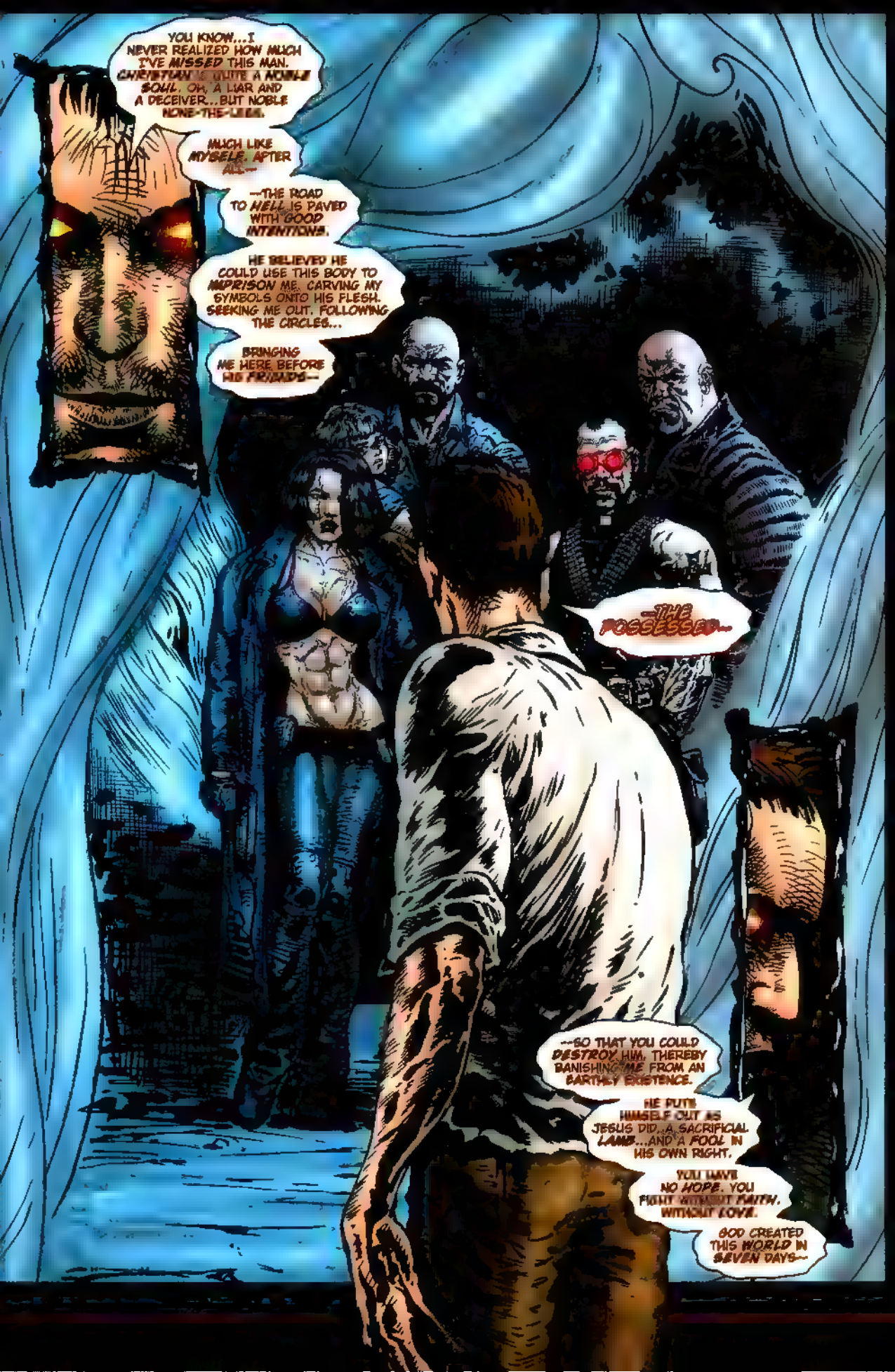
AT LEAST WE SAVED THE CHILDREN. .
AND FUCKED OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS. BECOMIN' SOMETHIN' OF A HABIT THESE DAYS.
KREEEEE!
WE'VE OUTSTAYED OUR WELCOME

K-KEEEEE!
FWOOSH!!
BLAMM!!
SHOO, FLY, DON'T BOTHER ME...

BECAUSE I BELONG TO *SOMEBODY*. YOU USED TO LOVE THAT SONG.
YOU'RE *HIM*, AREN'T YOU? THE PARASITE THAT WAS *INSIDE* ME.
AND YOU USED TO BE SUCH A PRETTY GIRL. BUT SELF-MUTILATION? I LIKE IT.
TIME FOR SLOPPY SECONDS. WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU CAN BE DRIVEN TO NEXT.
PERHAPS I'LL HAVE YOU CARVE OUT YOUR OWN TONGUE
YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU'RE NOT AS *BIG* AS I REMEMBER.
BOOMMMM!!!
BWOOSHHHH...

DAD! BURROUGHS!
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU RUN OFF TO, HOLLY?
THOUGHT I SAW CHRISTIAN...
DAMMIT, YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME
DID YOU FIND HIM?
NO
BUT I'M NOT SO SURE HE CAME HERE TO BETRAY US
WHO ARE THESE TWO?
MIKE WAGGONER, SIR... THIS IS MY DAUGHTER.
HE SAVED MY LIFE, DAD...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. WE SHOULD GET BACK TO TRIX
WHERE THE HELL DID THEY--
FRIENDS OF THE DEVIL.
THE SIGNS ARE ALL HERE, HOLLY.
SIGNS...

ONLY THE FAITHFUL RECOGNIZE THEM. AND NONE OF YOU DID.
NOT EVEN THE PREACHER, WHICH I'LL TAKE AS A PERSONAL TRIUMPH.
CHRISTIAN?
HELLO, HOLLY.
WALTER. DEREK. MICHAEL AND SIERRA.
SINNERS ALL.


YOU KNOW...I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED THIS MAN. CHRISTIAN IS QUITE A NOBLE SOUL. OH, A LIAR AND A DECEIVER...BUT NOBLE NONE-THE-LESS.
MUCH LIKE MYSELF, AFTER ALL--
--THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
HE BELIEVED HE COULD USE THIS BODY TO IMPRISON ME. CARVING MY SYMBOLS ONTO HIS FLESH. SEEKING ME OUT. FOLLOWING THE CIRCLES...
BRINGING ME HERE BEFORE HIS FRIENDS--
--THE POSSESSED--
--SO THAT YOU COULD DESTROY HIM, THEREBY BANISHING ME FROM AN EARTHLY EXISTENCE.
HE PUTS HIMSELF OUT AS JESUS DID...A SACRIFICIAL LAMB...AND A FOOL IN HIS OWN RIGHT.
YOU HAVE NO HOPE. YOU FIGHT WITHOUT FAITH. WITHOUT LOVE.
GOD CREATED THIS WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS--

--BUT IT WILL FALL IN ONE.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

CLIFFHANGER!
THE
GEOFF JOHNS KRIS GRIMMINGER LIAM SHARP
POSSESSED
NUMBER 6 MARCH
Come on then ye Beast.
Take up the task.
Flinch not in the face of my fatte
yet shall I smite thee
And see thee fallen.
As of old at Time's birth, you fell before
And I shall see thee burn.
Sordid.
Suggested for Mature Readers
HGWells

BOOOMMM!!
TRIX!
TRIX?
SHE WAS... SHE WAS IN THE CHURCH.

YOU SHOULD ALL FEEL VERY *FORTUNATE*.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY--

--YOU GET THE *DEVIL'S* ATTENTION.

THE DAY THE DEVIL CAME to TOWN

*POSSESSED AS CHILDREN BUT ULTIMATELY FREED, EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH THE HORRORS THAT ONCE PLAGUED THEM. THEY HAVE MADE A VOW TO EXORCIZE THE UNSEEN EVIL THAT CONTINUES TO INFEST THIS WORLD--AN EVIL THAT PREYS ON THE RARE INNOCENCE LEFT IN HUMANITY. WITH A COMBINATION OF ANCIENT TOOLS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL WEAPONS, THEY FACE THESE TERRORS WITHOUT HESITATION. THESE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ONCE-- AND ALWAYS WILL BE--**THE POSSESSED.***

SO WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO? WE CAN'T JUST EXORCISE SATAN FROM BENEDICT ARNOLD, HERE!
JESUS, DAD. DON'T YOU SEE IT? DON'T ANY ONE OF YOU?
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT CHRISTIAN WANTED. HE GAVE HIS BODY BACK TO THE DEVIL--
--SO WE COULD DESTROY IT.
DESTROY THE DEVIL?
HE KILLED TRIX..
AND IF WE KILL CHRISTIAN WHILE THE DEVIL'S INSIDE HIM--THAT PARA-SITE DIES.
PARASITE? HOLLY, I'M NOT A PARASITE.
I'M THE MAN YOU LOVE

IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, CHRISTIAN, PUSH HIM OUT. DON'T SACRIFICE YOURSELF LIKE THIS.
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
THERE...THERE IS. THERE'S A RITUAL, YOU S..IT YOUR WRISTS AND DRINK EACH OTHER'S BLOOD. THEN...
AHAHAHAHAHA
I'M SORRY--
--I JUST COULDN'T DO IT. THE LOOK ON ALL OF YOUR FACES.
IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I HAVE PLAYED WITH GOD'S PETS IN THE FLESH. I HAVE NOT HAD TO LIE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, I HAVE NOT HAD TO FIGHT FOR CONTROL OR FACE THE UNWILLING.
IN ALL TRUTH--
--HELL CAN BE QUITE BORING WHEN YOU'RE THE BOSS.
NOW, MY FELLOW DAMNED, SHED YOUR SKINS--

--AND SHED SOME BLOOD.

DADDY?

DON'T LOOK, SWEETIE. SHUT YOUR EYES TIGHT

KRRREEEEE!
NO!
YOU. WHAT'S YOUR NAME? PRIEST!
THAT DAMN THING GOT MY DAUGHTER
BLAM! BLAM!
IT'S BURROUGHS
AND WHICH ONE TOOK HER?
HOW THE FUCK ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT THEM?
OUTSIDE THEIR HOSTS, THE DEMONS ARE VULNERABLE.
HURT THEM BAD ENOUGH AND THEY GO BACK TO HELL, THEIR BODIES TURN INTO FIRE--
--LIKE VAMPIRES REDUCED TO ASH.

CHOOMMM!
WE NEED TO TAKE CHRISTIAN OUT, HOLLY
BOOOOMMM!
I KNOW

THERE'S SO MANY. THEY JUST KEEP COMING.
MIKE! WHERE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?
HELLO, CHILD.

BRING HOLLY TO ME.
SIERRA!
HOLLY!
HOLLY...

LOOK AT HER... SUCH A TINY, SWEET THING SO INNOCENT TO THE WAYS OF THE WORLD. BUT FOR HOW LONG?
SHE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE...
WHAT DO YOU SAY, HOLLY--- DOESN'T SHE REMIND YOU OF A YOUNG GIRL I DEFLOWERED ONCE UPON A TIME?
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, HOLLY!
YES, OF COURSE.
AS IF YOUR FATHER COULD EVEN COMPREHEND WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH. WHY LISTEN TO HIM NOW?
HE NEVER HAS LISTENED TO YOU.
NO.
CHRISTIAN WAS.
I WAS MORE OF A FATHER THAN HE EVER WAS.
I WAS THERE FOR YOU.

FFT
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WITH CHRISTIAN.
AFTER I TOOK THIS BODY WHEN HE WAS A SUCCULENT BOY, I STAYED WITH HIM. I WATCHED HIM.
I WATCHED HIM WATCH YOU.
HE TRIED SO HARD TO CONVINCE HIMSELF HE WAS FREE. HE TRIED SO HARD TO GET RID OF ME THINKING OF A PLAN.
GATHER THOSE WHO HE THOUGHT WERE LIKE HIM, SEEK ME OUT, LURE ME TO THIS PLANE--
--WHERE I COULD...HEH...BE ANNIHILATED.
GOD COULD NOT DESTROY ME. WHAT MADE HIM EVER BELIEVE A SIMPLE FLOCK OF SHEEP WERE CAPABLE OF DOING WHAT THEIR CREATOR COULDN'T?
CHRISTIAN FAILED. AND SO WILL YOU...
I SEE EVERYTHING.

THEN YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS--

--ASSHOLE!

FWOOSHHH!!!

GET YOUR *DAUGHTER* OUT OF HERE, MIKE

PROTECT HER WITH YOUR *LIFE*

TRIX...

YOU'RE ALIVE?

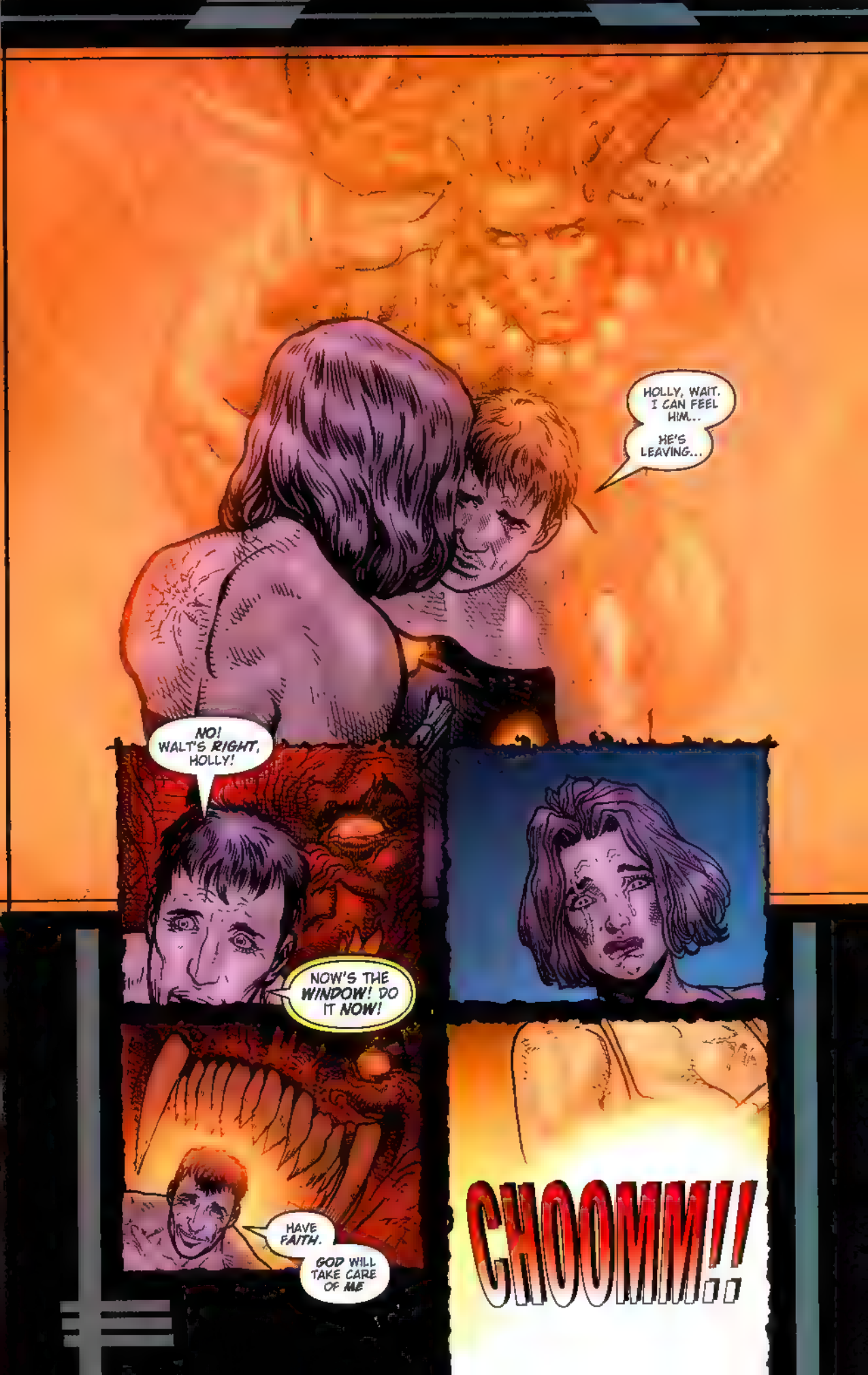
SEE THE WATER? START *PRAYING*

BARELY. I DUCKED OUT OF THE CHURCH SOON AS I HEARD CHRISTIAN'S VOICE OUTSIDE.

I WAS COMING AROUND TO MEET YOU WHEN IT *BLEW* NOW DO ME A FUCKING FAVOR, BURROUGHS.

WHAT?

I COMMAND ALL POWER WHO MOLEST US--BY THE POWERS OF GOD ALL POWERFUL---
--TO LEAVE US FOREVER AND TO BE CONSIGNED TO EVER-LASTING HELL, WHERE THEY WILL BE BOUND--
--FOR ALL ETERNITY.
IT...BURNS...
THIS IS OUR WINDOW, HOLLY.
WE HAVE TO...
CHAK
DAD, DON'T.
I'LL DO IT.


HOLLY, WAIT. I CAN FEEL HIM...
HE'S LEAVING...
NO! WALT'S RIGHT, HOLLY!
NOW'S THE WINDOW! DO IT NOW!
HAVE FAITH.
GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF ME
CHOOMM!!

BLOODSHOT

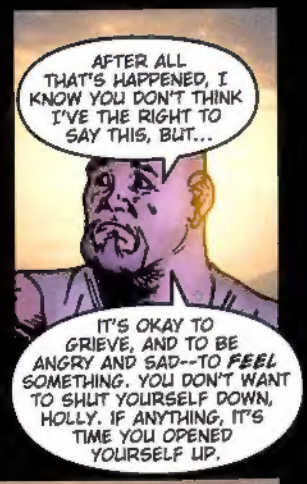
FWOOSH!!!
FROOOO

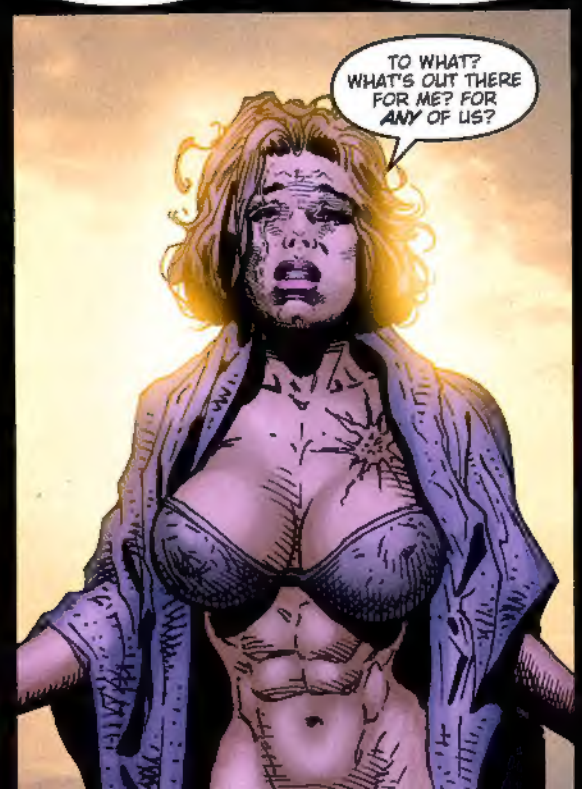
THE OFFER'S OPEN, MIKE. IF YOU WANT TO BRING SIERRA DOWN TO PHILADELPHIA FOR A WHILE. WE CAN HELP HER THROUGH THIS. SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE...US.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU, BUT I APPRECIATE THE OFFER.
AND MAYBE AFTER THINGS SETTLE DOWN AROUND HERE, WE'LL TAKE YOU UP ON IT.
YOU THINK WE REALLY DID IT? YOU KNOW...REALLY KILLED THE DEVIL?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT HE'S THE FUCKING DEVIL...
I MEAN, IF WE KILLED HIM WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR ACTIONS? IS THERE STILL DAMNATION? IS THERE STILL A HELL?
AND IF THERE IS--
--THEN WHO'S RUNNING THINGS DOWN THERE NOW?
NICE THOUGHT.
YOU STARTED IT.
HEY...GOOD WORK WITH THE PRAYER. WATER'S ONLY WATER WITHOUT YOU.
YEAH...PRAYER IS A POWERFUL THING--
--BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR WEAPONS, I WOULD'VE BEEN SHAKING JESUS'S HAND RIGHT NOW.
WELL, I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL... YOU COME TO THE SHOOTING RANGE WITH ME--
--AND WHEN WE GET BACK TO PHILLY, I'LL START ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL.

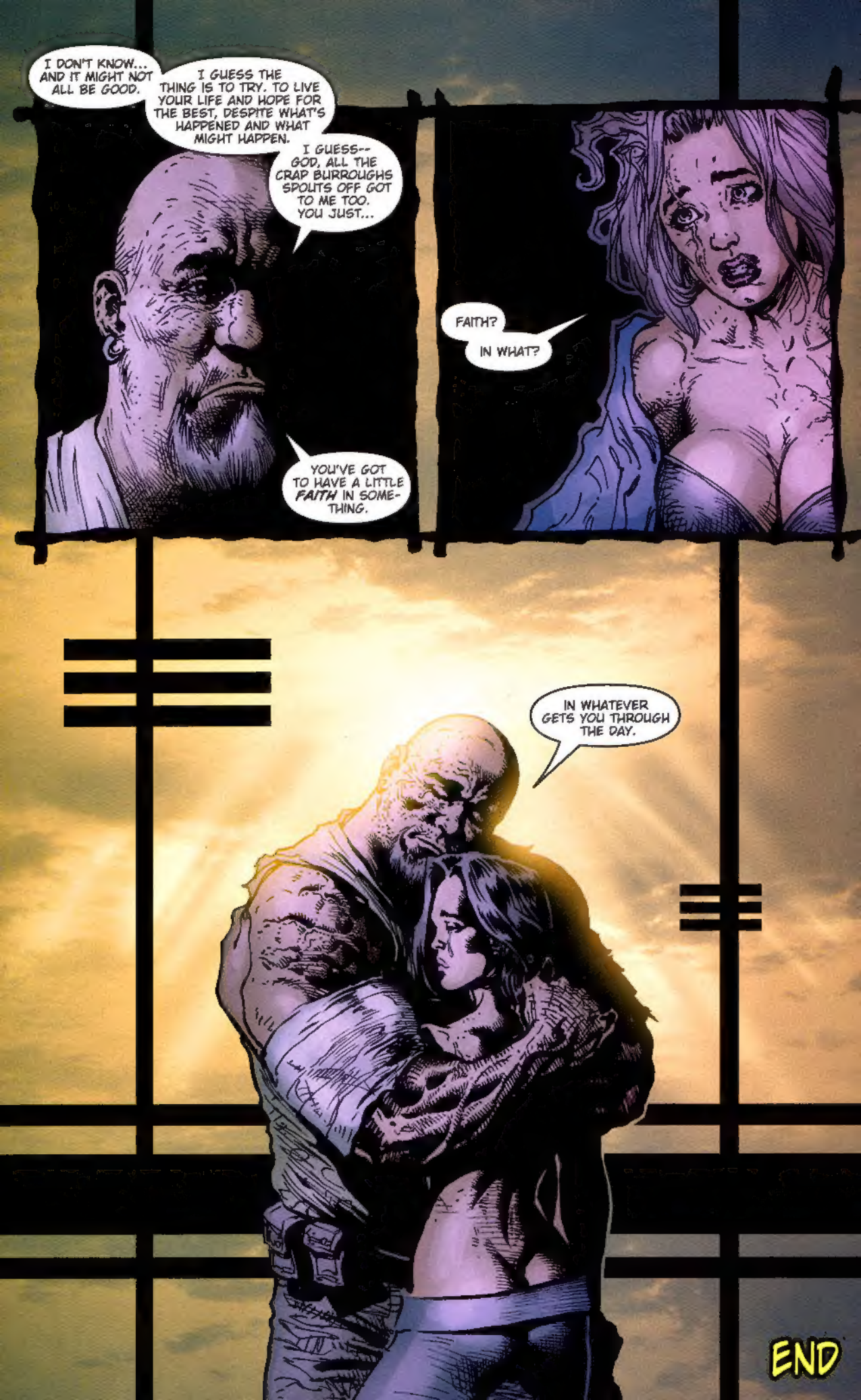
HOLLY, I--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DAD...I'M *FINE*, AND I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW.

NO.
NOW *YOU* LISTEN TO *ME*...
I AM NOT A GOOD MAN. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I LEFT SO LONG AGO...MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER AND I NEVER HAD WHAT I'D CALL AN IDEAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT--
--SEEING YOU BACK THERE, HOW YOU HANDLED YOURSELF...

I KNOW YOU LOVED CHRISTIAN... AND HE LOVED YOU.
SEEING THE WAY MIKE LOOKED OUT FOR HIS DAUGHTER, MADE ME REALIZE HOW HORRIBLY *WRONG* I'VE BEEN ALL THESE YEARS.


AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK I'VE THE RIGHT TO SAY THIS, BUT...
IT'S OKAY TO GRIEVE, AND TO BE ANGRY AND SAD--TO *FEEL* SOMETHING. YOU DON'T WANT TO SHUT YOURSELF DOWN, HOLLY. IF ANYTHING, IT'S TIME YOU OPENED YOURSELF UP.


TO WHAT? WHAT'S OUT THERE FOR ME? FOR *ANY* OF US?


I DON'T KNOW... AND IT MIGHT NOT ALL BE GOOD.
I GUESS THE THING IS TO TRY. TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AND HOPE FOR THE BEST, DESPITE WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
I GUESS-- GOD, ALL THE CRAP BURROUGHS SPOUTS OFF GOT TO ME TOO. YOU JUST...
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A LITTLE *FAITH* IN SOMETHING.
FAITH?
IN WHAT?
IN WHATEVER GETS YOU THROUGH THE DAY.
END